

In the Claims

Listing of the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for processing a fluid sample comprising:
 - (~~iv~~)(i) a platform comprising:
 - (~~e~~)(a) a chamber suitable for receiving a sample; and
 - (~~d~~)(b) a functional component;
 - (~~v~~)(ii) an arm capable of being raised and lowered and including a means for removeably attaching to the functional component such that said component may be raised and lowered with the arm; and
 - (~~w~~)(iii) a means for moving the platform such that any chamber or functional component may be aligned with respect to the arm.
2. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein the platform is circular.
3. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 2~~Claim 1 wherein the arm mechanically removeably attaches to the functional component.
4. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 3~~Claim 1 wherein the apparatus comprises a means for raising and lowering the arm in a substantially vertical direction.

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5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 4~~Claim 1 |
wherein the functional component is used to remove an analyte from the sample in the
chamber.

6. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 5 wherein the chamber of the
apparatus comprises a solid phase binding material capable of forming a complex
with the analyte.

7. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 6 wherein said solid phase binding
material is silica.

8. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to ~~any of Claims 5 to 7~~Claim 5 |
wherein the apparatus comprises a means for attracting said complex.

9. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 8 wherein said means is a magnet.

10. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to ~~Claims 8 to 9~~Claim 8 |
wherein said functional reagent is a sheath which provides an interface between the
means for attracting the complex and the complex itself.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 10~~Claim 1 |
wherein the apparatus additionally comprises a physical processing means.

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12. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 11 wherein the physical processing means is a means for heating the contents of a chamber of the apparatus.

13. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 11 wherein the physical processing means is a means for sonicating the contents of a chamber of the apparatus.

14. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 13~~Claim 1 |
wherein the chamber of the apparatus is coated at least in part with an electrically
conducting polymer.

15. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to ~~any of Claims 1 to 14~~Claim 1 |
wherein the apparatus comprises a chamber comprising pre-dispensed reagents.

16. (Original) An apparatus according to Claim 15 wherein the reagents are bound to
further solid phase binding material.

17. (Original) Use of an apparatus according to Claim 1 for the processing of a
sample prior to a nucleic acid amplification reaction.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a fluid sample wherein the
method comprises:
~~(vii)(i)~~ placing a sample comprising an analyte into a first chamber located on |
a platform of an apparatus;

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(viii)(ii) binding the analyte to a binding material to form an analyte - binding material complex;

(ix)(iii) lowering a means for reversibly attracting said complex into said first chamber and allowing the complex to be attracted to said means;

(x)(iv) raising said means from the first chamber;

(xi)(v) moving said platform such that a second chamber is now aligned with the means for reversibly attracting said complex; and

(xii)(vi) lowering said means for reversibly attracting said complex into the second chamber and allowing the complex to detract from said means;

~~characterised in that~~wherein the analyte is subjected to a physical processing step either in the first chamber or in the second chamber.

19. (Original) A method according to Claim 17 wherein the physical processing step is a sonication step.

20. (Original) A method according to Claim 17 wherein the physical processing step is a heating step.

21. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of Claims 17 to 20~~Claim 17 wherein the sample is also subjected to a chemical processing step.

22. (Original) Use of a method according to Claim 17 for the processing of a sample prior to a nucleic acid amplification reaction.

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23. (Original) Use of a binding material in a method according to Claim 17 for the processing of a sample prior to a nucleic acid amplification reaction.

24. (Currently Amended) A lid, suitable for closure of a vessel, said lid comprising a membrane ~~and characterised in that~~wherein said membrane is recessed within the lid.

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